- The construction of the project involves the engagement of a huge workforce. The local people would get direct employment through contractors as well as indirect employment opportunities through various project related activities.
- Ample opportunities would open up for establishment of small scale industries and business.
- After completion, the project will become a big tourist attraction, which would provide a boost to the tourism industry. Because of landscaping of the area and creation of reservoir, the project will become a heaven for migratory birds and wildlife. Also, the water body will boost the development of pisciculture.
- The phenomenon of growth in the long run, will draw the isolated local population, generally tribals, into the national mainstream.

(b) Under the 50,000 MW initiative, 162 hydroelectric Project spread over 16 States were taken up by Central Electricity Authority as the nodal agency with Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs)/ State Agencies as consultants for the purpose of preparation of Preliminary Feasibility Reports (PFRs). Of these, 62 schemes, with aggregate installed capacity of 30416 MW are in North-Eastern Region. Out of the 62 PFR schemes, 25 low tariff schemes, with aggregate installed capacity of 22382 MW have been selected for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). These schemes have been allocated to various agencies for preparation of DPRs. These DPRs would provide a shelf of bankable projects, which could be taken up for implementation.

(c) During the Tenth plan period (2002-07), a capacity addition of 14,393 MW has been programmed in the country of which 349 MW (Central Sector: 85 MW and State Sector: 264 MW) has been programmed in the North-Eastern Region. The capacity addition target for Eleventh Plan is yet to be finalized.

Power plants affected by floods in the country

2472. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many power plants were affected by floods caused by monsoon rains in many parts of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) as rain and floods are regular features, the reasons why long-term measures to protect power plants were not taken; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure uninterrupted power supply even in worst floods conditions like in UK, USA and European countries?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) A few hydroelectric projects were closed for different periods of time due to high silt content in the water caused by recent monsoon rains/floods as a precautionary measure from consideration of safety of the projects. No damage was caused to the main structures of the projects and functionability of the project was not affected due to rains/floods. The following Hydro Electric Projects were partly closed due to high content of silt in the water:

(i) Nathpa Jhakri (1500 MW)

(ii) Baspa (300 MW)

(iii) Bhaba (120 MW)

(iv) Giri (60 MW)

(v) Bassi (60 MW)

(vi) Chamera-II (300 MW)

(vii) Baira Siul (198 MW)

(viii) Salal I & II (690 MW)

(ix) Rangit-IV (60 MW)

(c) Necessary measures to protect power plants from floods and heavy rains are taken at planning/design stage itself.

(d) To ensure uninterrupted power supply even in worst flood conditions, the following steps have been taken by the Government:

(i) Inter-State and inter-regional power transfer by strengthening of inter-regional transmission links and formation of National Grid.

(ii) Enhanced capacity addition target of 41,110 MW for Tenth Plan.

(iii) Strict monitoring to ensure timely completion of ongoing/sanctioned projects.

(iv) Strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution systems.

(v) Encouragement of demand and management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.

(vi) Long term planning for power on demand for all by 2012 envisaging additional capacity addition of about 67,677 MW in Eleventh Plan including 5% as spinning reserve.

Export of floating Fly ash

†2473. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for floating fly ash (liquid ash) of coal emanating from National Thermal Power Station for export;

(b) if so, the details of the last three years regarding thermal power station of NTPC which supplied floating fly ash, names of institutions to which it was supplied on demand alongwith its quantity;

(c) the income that the corporation has got every year from each station from it; and

(d) the details of the process for providing this floating fly ash?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) to (d) There is a demand for floating fly ash (liquid ash of coal) emanating from NTPC's thermal power stations but no firm details can be given for the demand for it as no data is available with CEA or NTPC. As per information available, NTPC is examining the techno-economic benefit to extract cenospheres on its own for commercial exploration. Based on the data available, the following thermal power stations of NTPC have utilized ash for collection of cenospheres:

(i) Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station.

(ii) Unchahar Thermal Power Station.

(iii) Talcher Thermal Power Station.

(iv) Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.